

REMARKS

Examiner N. Ha is thanked for the thorough examination and search of the subject Patent Application. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended, Claims 4 and 13-23 have been canceled, and new Claims 24-26 have been added.

The making final of the restriction requirement is noted. Claims 13-23 are hereby canceled. A divisional application to the canceled claims will be filed once the elected claims are allowed.

The Examiner is thanked for finding allowable Claims 9-12.

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 1 and 4-5 under 35 U.S.C. 102, as being anticipated by Blish et al is requested in view of amended Claims 1 and 5 and in accordance with the following remarks.

It is agreed that Blish et al also forms a continuous conductive loop as a seal ring. However, it is not agreed that the sections of Blish's seal ring have different alternating widths. Blish states in col. 4, lines 36-37 and line 61 that the legs 122 of each section are "of similar width and length." Blish's seal ring is made up of sections that are placed perpendicularly to each other or in a zigzag fashion for the purpose of avoiding problems in filling the trench sections with metal (col. 3, lines 1-6). Applicants' seal ring sections have different widths so that adjacent sections will have different impedances (see top of page 7 of the Specification). This characteristic impedance difference has been incorporated into Claim 1 from Claim 4. It is not agreed that the sections of Blish's seal ring will have different impedances because they have different surface areas as stated by the Examiner. Since the sections have similar widths and lengths, they will have similar surface areas as well.

Claim 5 claims the conductive loop comprises a plurality of stacked, interconnected, conductive layers. This is clearly different from Blish in which the sections

122 are formed by depositing a single layer of metal within a trench and polishing back the metal using CMP (col. 5, lines 10-30). Blish does not teach or suggest using multiple stacked interconnected conductive layers to form a seal ring.

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 1 and 4-5 under 35 U.S.C. 102, as being anticipated by Blish et al is requested in view of amended Claims 1 and 5 and in accordance with the remarks above.

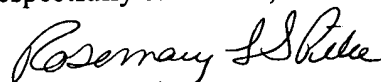
Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 2-3 and 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103, as being unpatentable over Blish et al is requested in view of amended Claims 1 and 5 and in accordance with the following remarks.

It is believed that the Examiner meant to reject claims 2-3 and 6-7 here. It is agreed that Blish could be modified to use one of the widths claimed in these claims. However, as discussed above, Applicants teach using at least two different alternating widths of their seal ring sections. Blish's sections all have similar widths and lengths. Thus, the alternating widths is not taught or suggested by Blish.

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 2-3 and 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103, as being unpatentable over Blish et al is requested in view of amended Claims 1 and 5 and in accordance with the remarks above.

It is requested that should Examiner Ha not find that the Claims are now Allowable that the Examiner call the undersigned at 765 4530866 to overcome any problems preventing allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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